

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 84

Introduced by Assembly Members Leslie and Laird

January 5, 2005

An act to add Section 5076 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 84, as introduced, Leslie. Vehicles: special interest license plates.

Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue certain special interest license plates, including specific special environmental design license plates, in accordance with a specified procedure. Existing law requires, before special interest license plates may be issued, at least 7,500 applications for the special interest license plates to be received by the department.

This bill would require the department, in consultation with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, to design and make available for issuance special environmental design license plates bearing a full-plate graphic design depicting a significant feature of the Sierra Nevada Region, as specified.

The bill would require an applicant for these license plates to pay, in addition to regular fees for an original registration or renewal of registration, specified additional fees. The bill would require the department to deposit the additional fees, less the department's administrative costs and one specified exception, in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Account, which the bill would create in the California Environmental License Plate Fund. The bill would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the Controller to allocate the money in the account to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for expenditure

consistent with the conservancy's objectives. The bill would require the conservancy to annually report to the Legislature on its use and expenditure of the money in the account.

The bill would exempt these special interest license plates from the 7,500 application requirement, if a private party or nonprofit organization provides to the department moneys that are sufficient to cover the initial set-up costs for creating these special interest license plates.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The Sierra Nevada Region is a globally significant area
4 that includes many national and state parks, the highest peaks in
5 the 48 contiguous states, and large, pristine areas that are open
6 for public use.

7 (b) The Sierra Nevada Region is an important part of the
8 state's economy, and provides substantial agricultural products,
9 timber resources, ranching, mining, tourism, and recreation.

10 (c) The Sierra Nevada Region provides 65 percent of the
11 state's developed water supply and nearly all of the water supply
12 for western Nevada. As California's principal watershed, the
13 region is the critical source of water for urban and rural parts of
14 northern and southern California.

15 (d) The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has been created to work
16 in cooperation with local governments, private businesses,
17 nonprofit organizations, and the public, as a lead agency in
18 funding investment in the natural and human resources of the
19 Sierra Nevada Region.

20 (e) Thus, the state honors the unique importance of the Sierra
21 Nevada Region by creating a Sierra Nevada license plate
22 consistent with the special interest license plate program as
23 described in Section 5060 of the Vehicle Code.

24 SEC. 2. Section 5076 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

25 5076. (a) The department, in consultation with the Sierra
26 Nevada Conservancy, shall design and make available for
27 issuance under this article special environmental design license

plates as described in this section. Notwithstanding subdivision (c) of Section 5060, the special environmental design license plates shall bear a full-plate graphic design depicting a significant feature of the Sierra Nevada Region. A person described in Section 5101 may, upon payment of the additional fees set forth in subdivision (b), apply for and be issued a set of special environmental design license plates. Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 5060, the special environmental design license plates may be issued as environmental license plates, as defined in Section 5103.

(b) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration or renewal of registration, the following additional fees shall be paid for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the special environmental design license plates authorized pursuant to this section:

- (1) For the original issuance of the plates, fifty dollars (\$50).
- (2) For a renewal of registration with the plates, forty dollars (\$40).
- (3) For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars (\$15).
- (4) For each substitute replacement plate, thirty-five dollars (\$35).

(5) In addition, for the issuance of environmental license plates, as defined in Section 5103, with a full-plate graphic design described in subdivision (a), the additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108. The additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108 shall be deposited in the California Environmental License Plate Fund.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b), and after deducting its administrative costs under this section, the department shall deposit the additional revenue derived from the issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of special environmental design license plates issued under this section in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Account, which is hereby created in the California Environmental License Plate Fund. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the money in the account shall be allocated by the Controller to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for expenditure consistent with the objectives of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

1 (d) The Sierra Nevada Conservancy shall report to the
2 Legislature on or before June 30 of each year on its use and
3 expenditure of the money in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
4 Account, beginning one year after the initial issuance of the
5 special interest license plates authorized by this section.

6 (e) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of
7 Section 5060, if a private party or nonprofit organization
8 provides to the department moneys that are sufficient to cover the
9 initial set-up costs for creating the special environmental design
10 license plates described in this section, and that amount of
11 moneys is sufficient that if none of these special interest license
12 plates were actually sold the department would not have incurred
13 outstanding administrative costs related to these special interest
14 license plates, the department shall begin immediately issuing
15 these special interest license plates upon their availability, rather
16 than waiting until 7,500 applications have been received for these
17 special interest license plates.

18 (Added by Stats. 1993, Ch. 1303, Sec. 3. Effective October 11,
19 1993.)